



Attorney General for Northern Ireland

NEW DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS FOR NORTHERN IRELAND APPOINTED

7 November 2011

The Attorney General for Northern Ireland, John F Larkin QC, today appointed Barra McGrory QC as the new Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland.

Barra McGrory QC is a Barrister with extensive experience in criminal law.

Speaking about the appointment the Attorney General said: **"I am delighted to announce the appointment of Barra McGrory QC as the new Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland. I look forward to working with Barra as he leads the Public Prosecution Service through the challenges it faces in the years ahead.**

It is only right that I take this opportunity to pay tribute to Barra's predecessor Sir Alastair Fraser QC and the previous Acting Director Jim Scholes; both of whom are public servants of immense ability and dedication."

Commenting on his appointment, Barra McGrory QC said: **"I am delighted to accept the Attorney General's invitation to become the Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland. The Public Prosecution Service is at the core of the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland and leading it at this important time will be a great privilege."**

Notes to Editors

1. The appointment of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) for Northern Ireland is made by the Attorney General for Northern Ireland under section 30 of the Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002

2. Sir Alasdair Fraser QC retired as DPP on 28 September 2010.

3. Biographical Note

- Barra McGrory QC was called to the Bar in 2009 two years after becoming the first solicitor in Northern Ireland to be awarded the rank of Queen's Counsel.
- In 1987 he was admitted to the role of solicitors and subsequently became a partner in the firm founded by his late father, PJ Mc Grory. Although the practice was broadly based, Barra, like his father before him, is perhaps best known as a criminal lawyer.
- He became chairman of the Solicitor's Criminal Bar Association in 1990 and served two terms on the council of the Law Society, chairing its Criminal Law and Human Rights Committee.
- With a keen interest in trial advocacy, Barra was instrumental in the establishment of an advocacy working party within the Law Society, the objectives of which were to raise advocacy standards and promote advocacy by solicitors.
- Appearing regularly as an advocate in criminal courts at all levels throughout Northern Ireland he has also appeared in both the Bloody Sunday and Robert Hamill Tribunals and before the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

For media enquiries:

Relating to Barra McCrory QC or the Public Prosecution Service please contact – Lynn Hutchinson at the Public Prosecution Service on 028 90 897187, 07799115253 or by email lynn.hutchinson@ppsni.gsi.gov.uk.

Relating to the Director of Public Prosecutions appointment process please contact – Eamonn McConville at the Office of the Attorney General office on 028 9072 5310 or by email Eamonn.McConville@attorneygeneralni.gov.uk